



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Select Committee on Children Public Hearing
February 19, 2009**

**House Bill 6419, An Act Concerning Transparency And Accountability
Of The Department Of Children And Families**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in regards to **House Bill 6419, *An Act Concerning Transparency and Accountability of the Department of Children and Families***.

The Judicial Branch would note that two provisions of this bill pertaining to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) – to merge administrative case reviews with court-based case status conferences, which is proposed in two other bills before the General Assembly, and to establish a pilot program to open proceedings of the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters – would actually substantially impact the Branch.

Therefore, if these provisions are to remain in the bill, the Judicial Branch respectfully requests that it be included on the task force created pursuant to lines 57-79.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.